



Easter Island (Rapa Nui)

Includes »

Hanga Roa	403
Parque Nacional	
Rapa Nui	411
Northern Circuit	411
Southwest Circuit	412
Northeast Circuit	412
Understand	
Easter Island	413
Easter Island Today	413
History	413
The Culture	414
Arts	414
Environment	414
Directory A-Z	414
Transportation	415

Best Places to Eat

- » Au Bout du Monde (p409)
- » Te Moana (p409)
- » Kanahau (p409)
- » Mikafé (p409)

Best Places to Stay

- » Explora en Rapa Nui (p406)
- » Te Ora (p406)
- » Aloha Nui (p408)
- » Cabañas Christophe (p406)
- » Cabañas Mana Ora (p407)

Why Go?

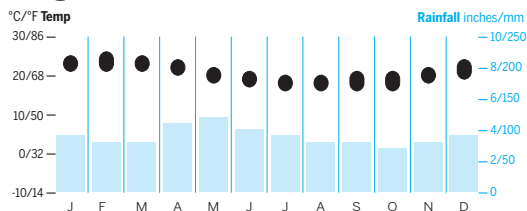
Easter Island (Rapa Nui to its native Polynesian inhabitants) is like nowhere else on earth. Historically intriguing, culturally compelling and scenically magical, this tiny speck of land looks like it's fallen off another planet. In this blissfully isolated, unpolished gem it's hard to feel connected even to Chile, over 3700km to the east, let alone the wider world. It's just you, the indigo depths and the strikingly enigmatic *moai* (giant statues) scattered amid an eerie landscape.

When the *moai* have finished working their magic on you, there's a startling variety (for such a small island) of adventure options available. Diving, snorkelling and surfing are fabulous. On land, there's no better ecofriendly way to experience the island's savage beauty than on foot, from a bike saddle or on horseback. But if all you want to do is recharge the batteries, a couple of superb expanses of white sand beckon.

Although Easter Island is world famous and visitors are on the increase, everything remains small and personable – it's all about eco-travel.

When to Go

Hanga Roa



Jan–Mar Peak season. Highest prices and scarce hotels around February's Tapati Rapa Nui festival.

Jul–Aug Chilly weather, not ideal for beaches but a good time for hiking and horseback riding.

Apr–Jun & Oct–Dec The shoulder season is not a bad time to visit; the climate is fairly temperate.

AT A GLANCE

Currency Chilean peso (CH\$)

Language Spanish, Rapa Nui

Mobile phones Local SIM cards are available and can be used with unlocked GSM phones. Roaming agreements with most operators.

Money A few ATMs

Visas Not required for visitors from most Western countries

Fast Facts

- » **Country code** ☑56 32
- » **Land area** 117 sq km
- » **Main city** Hanga Roa
- » **Population** 6700

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	CH\$505
Canada	C\$1	CH\$488
Euro	€1	CH\$640
Japan	¥100	CH\$606
New Zealand	NZ\$1	CH\$399
UK	UK£1	CH\$800
USA	US\$1	CH\$517

For current exchange rates see www.xe.com.

Set Your Budget

- » **Car rental** CH\$35,000
- » **Guesthouse** CH\$40,000
- » **Island tour** CH\$25,000
- » **Pisco sour** CH\$2500
- » **Two-course dinner** CH\$15,000

Connections

Short of sailing your own boat, the only way to and from Easter Island is by air. Flights between Easter Island and Santiago are frequent and last about five hours. There are also less frequent flights to/from Lima (Peru) and to/from Pape'ete (French Polynesia). Public transport is nonexistent on the island. Private minibuses, rental cars and bicycles are the most convenient ways to get around.

ITINERARIES

Four Days

Start the day by visiting the Musée Antropológico Sebastián Englert for some historical background. Next, take a half-day tour to Rano Kau and Orongo ceremonial village and soak up the lofty views. On day two take a full-day tour to marvel at Rano Raraku and Ahu Tongariki. On your return to Hanga Roa head straight to an atmosphere-laden bar on Av Atamu Tekena for the night vibe. Day three is all about Hanga Roa. Hit the *mercado* (market) to put a dent in the wallet and amble down Av Te Pito o Te Henua to enjoy the sunset at Ahu Tahai. Attend a traditional dance show later in the evening. Day four should see you lazing the day away at Anakena beach.

One Week

Follow the four-day agenda then make the most of the island's outdoor adventures. Book a horse-riding excursion along the north coast, spend a day diving off Motu Nui, scramble up and down Maunga Terevaka, and explore Península Poike.

Sustainable Travel

Easter Island is a superb open-air museum, but it's under threat due to the growing number of visitors. A few rules:

- » Don't walk on the *ahu* (ceremonial stone platforms), as they are revered by locals as burial sites.
- » It's illegal to remove or relocate rocks from any of the archaeological structures.
- » Don't touch petroglyphs, as they're very fragile.
- » Stay on designated paths to limit erosion.
- » Motor vehicles are not allowed on Península Poike or Terevaka.
- » Don't pitch your tent in the park.